

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9756

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP

SUBJECT: SUGAR -- CHAIRMANSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL SUGAR
AGREEMENT NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE

1. DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 17, INTEREST HAS INTENSIFIED ON THE QUESTION OF SELECTING A CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. CANDIDATES ARE NOW RONALD GEORGE ROBERT WALL OF THE U.K., LORD CAMPBELL OF ESKIN, U.K., AND WAITING IN THE WINGS "TO SERVE IF NEEDED", THE PRESENT ISO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ERNEST JONES-PARRY. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CALLS CONCERNING THE CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE. DETAILS FOLLOW:

2. MR. WALL. WE RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN (KUBOTA) EARLY IN THE WEEK INFORMING US THAT WALL HAD THE OFFICIAL SUPPORT OF THE GOJ AND URGING THAT WE GIVE HIS CANDIDACY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. KUBOTA SAID WALL WAS SUPPORTED BY CANADA AND NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER CONSUMER DELEGATIONS HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF JONES-PARRY TAKING THE CHAIR. EMBOFF TOLD KUBOTA THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS UNLIKELY TO TAKE SIDES ON THIS ISSUE BUT WOULD PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH ANY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY. KUBOTA

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WAS REMINDED THAT WE HAD EARLIER MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE SAW NO REASON TO OPPOSE JONES-PARRY. NEVERTHELESS, EMBOFF PROMISED TO BRING THE APPROACH TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION. WALL WAS BORN JANUARY 25, 1910, AND EDUCATED AT OXFORD. HE ENTERED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1933, SERVING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

1958-60, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY 1961-70 AND CHAIRMAN OF THE U.K. SUGAR BOARD 1970-76. HE HAS BEEN CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH ISO AFFAIRS, HAVING BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 1972 AND 1973.

3. LORD CAMPBELL OF ESKIN. MR. JONES-PARRY CALLED EMBOFF JANUARY 20 TO SAY THAT AT THE REQUEST OF A GROUP OF (UNNAMED) DELEGATES ACTING IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY, HE WISHED TO PUT FORWARD THE NAME OF LORD CAMPBELL. MR. JONES-PARRY SAID HE PERSONALLY ENDORSED LORD CAMPBELL AS A MAN OF SUITABLE STATURE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP. HE SAID HE HAD APPROACHED LORD CAMPBELL AND ASCERTAINED HIS WILLINGNESS TO SERVE. LORD CAMPBELL WAS BORN AUGUST 8, 1912, AND EDUCATED AT ETON AND OXFORD. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF BOOKER MCCONNELL LTD. AND EARLIER, 1952-56, CHAIRMAN. HE HAS BEEN WITH THE MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SINCE 1967 AND WITH THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SINCE 1968. HE HAS ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN PUBLISHING AND TELEVISION. HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH SUGAR INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO BOOKER MCCONNELL'S EARLIER INTEREST IN GUYANA, CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH SUGAR EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION FROM 1950. ACCORDING TO WHO'S WHO, HIS RECREATION INCLUDES READING, HITTING BALLS AND PAINTING.

4. MR. JONES-PARRY. SOME TIME AGO, JONES-PARRY INFORMED THE ISO MEMBERSHIP THAT HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE THE CHAIRMANSHIP HIMSELF SINCE HE THOUGHT HE COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AT THE NEGOTIATIONS AS MORE OF A FREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGENT. NEVERTHELESS, JONES-PARRY HAS ALWAYS MADE HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE DRAFTED TO "SERVE AS A GOOD CIVIL SERVANT IF REQUIRED" KNOWN. WHETHER OR NOT IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS JONES-PARRY WOULD REALLY LIKE THE JOB, HE HAS MADE CLEAR HIS WILLINGNESS TO DEFER TO CAMPBELL BUT HE HAS MISGIVINGS ABOUT WALL.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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